

PARISH NEWS

WOMEN'S SUNDAY: On 6th of March 2022 we observed the Women's Sunday in our Church. On this occasion the Women's of our Church led the entire Service. Mrs. L. M. Sathe was the speaker for this day.

COTTAGE PRAYER MEETING: We would like to thank all those who helped by leading reading and preaching the word of God during the Lenten Cottage Prayer Meetings. We would specially like to thank Lt. Col. T. E. Daniel for helping us in the music.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: We would request all the parents to send their children to Sunday school classes for their spiritual growth and development which starts along with Sunday church worship service.

PALM SUNDAY: On 10th of April 2022 we shall celebrate the feast of Palm Sunday we will have a procession around the Church.

MAUNDY THURSDAY: On 14th of April, 2022 at 6:00 pm we shall observe Maundy Thursday and the Confirmation Service.

GOOD FRIDAY: Our Three hour Good Friday Devotional service will be on the 15th of April, 2022 from 12:00 noon to 3:00 PM.

EASTER SERVICE: Easter Holy Communion Service (17th April, 2022) will commence at 8:30 am.

SPECIAL OFFERING: During the Easter worship service offertory will be collected in Lenten envelop at the Altar therefore we request you to take an envelop which is kept at the last pew of our church.

EASTER MUSICAL NIGHT/ DINNER: We shall be having a special Easter Musical Night cum Easter Fellowship Dinner on the 17th April 2022. Your contribution towards the Dinner will be Rs 100 per head for children & adult above the age of 5 years. Guest contribution will be 150 per head.

ORDINATION SERVICE: On 24th of April 2022 we will be having the Ordination Service in our Church, three candidates will be ordained as a Deacon and three candidates will be ordained as a Presbyter. Let us keep all these candidates in our prayer as they will be giving their life for the service of God.

CONGRATULATIONS: We are happy to inform you that, Mr. Varun & Mrs. Supriya Washington were blessed with a baby Girl on Friday 15th March 2022. We would like to congratulate the parent's especially the grandparents Mr. Sanjay & Mrs. Stella Peter.

WISH YOU ALL A VERY BLESSED RESURRECTION DAY.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, (C.N.I), JABALPUR



(Est. 1844)

Church Service- 8:30 am

Rev. Bruce Thangadurai
Hon. Presbyter-in-charge
bruce_scmi@rediffmail.com

Sunday School- 8:30 am

926, North Civil Lines,
Jabalpur-482001 (M.P.)
Mob. No: 9893169749
www.christchurchcnijbp.org

CHURCH CALENDER FOR APRIL - 2022

3 RD	APRIL 2022	SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE EASTER
10 TH	APRIL 2022	PALM SUNDAY
14 TH	APRIL 2022	MAUNDY THURSDAY
15 TH	APRIL 2022	GOOD FRIDAY
17 TH	APRIL 2022	EASTER DAY
24 TH	APRIL 2022	ORDINATION SUNDAY

Presbyter's Message

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

As we approach another Easter, let me ask you to consider a very personal question: what do you think happens when you die? Do you think there's an afterlife? Do you think we continue after death? Or do you think life is like an on-off switch and when you die it's click! you're gone!? Are you not sure what happens after death? Do you think that it's impossible for anyone to know?

The Bible speaks clearly and authoritatively about what happens after death and tells us we don't have to live in uncertainty – we can know. The Bible is full of strong and specific promises that this life isn't the end for those who trust in Jesus Christ. Promises that go beyond death, beyond the grave. Promises that when death hits the "off" switch on our lives, God reaches out and hits the permanent "on" switch and we live again, never to die. It's called "resurrection" and it's an amazing hope that is based entirely on what we're here to celebrate this Easter – the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:3-5

In verses 3-5 we see that God has turned the power switch on so that the life of the believer is transformed and transformed in every direction: our lives now, our lives after death, and everything in between now and then.

These verses describe God turning on an "on switch" of life that can never, ever be turned off and Peter is clear about where all this life comes from and what it is based on.

According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you...

I. The hope of the resurrection is possible only because of Good Friday

On Easter Sunday we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, but to understand what Easter is we need to understand Good Friday. Jesus could only be resurrected from the dead because he died. But why did he have to die? In the OT God condemns the shedding of innocent blood – so how could it have been His will that Jesus die? And not just die, but die an excruciating, shameful death? Crucifixion is the cruelest death ever invented and the OT says that everyone who hangs on a tree is cursed by God. The Bible tells us that all mankind is fallen. We are sinners separated from God and cursed by God because of our sin. It is appointed to man to die once and then the judgment. What comes after death? Judgment. Eternal judgment for our sin. Why was Jesus cursed? Why did he die? The answer is he took our place, he took our punishment, the Innocent for the guilty.

II. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, God turns on the power to the new life of a living hope (Now)

According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...vs 3

Notice that God's life-transforming power isn't limited to when we die: He has caused us to be born again now. We are made alive now in a way that we weren't before. Going back to the fall, God warned Adam and Eve that if they ate the forbidden fruit, on that day they would die. Not physically, but spiritually. We were all born into this world spiritually dead.

God's power makes us alive to God and born again to a living hope. When the Bible speaks of hope it doesn't mean something we hope will happen but may or may not. It means something that is certain but not yet. We are born again to a living hope – it is a hope that is tethered to resurrection life and it wells up within us now as a hope that's coursing with the power of life. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus God turns on the power to the new life of a living hope! And that's not something that will happen, that's what God has done now in the believer.

III. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, God will resurrect us to a perfect and permanent inheritance (Then)

What's the living hope hoping in? Verse 4 tells us: *to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you...*

The Christian has this blessed hope: death isn't the end, it's really the beginning. We will one day be resurrected in bodies that won't have an "off" button on them. They won't even have a "sleep" setting on them – life will so powerfully course through us that we will never wear out, never weaken, never need to be replenished, and never die.

Death is like the ultimate "elephant in the room". We know we all will one day die, but we don't like to talk about it or think about it. Funerals confront us with the reality of death, but unless it's someone very close to us, we tend to move on quickly. We want to move on quickly. And there's a good reason: death wasn't supposed to be. Death wasn't in God's original creation – death entered after the fall. The Bible describes death as an enemy. In fact it will be the last enemy God destroys. Jesus has removed the sting of death, but it's still an enemy.

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have been adopted into God's family, we have received power to become sons and daughters of God, Jesus' inheritance is our inheritance, and heaven won't just be an amazing destination, it will be home. We will be home.

But Jesus came to ransom us back to God so that we would be His beloved children and so that His kingdom would forever be our home. We won't just be resurrected, we'll be resurrected to an inheritance – we'll be home.

The amazing thing about the gospel is that God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son. Jesus wasn't held to the cross by nails, he was held by love. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. When a believer stands on the threshold of death, we can also be assured deep in our heart, we stand on the threshold of life. The threshold of our eternal home.

IV. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, God's power will guard our lives every step (Between Now and Then)

...who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time...

Finally, God's power has not only turned the on switch to a living hope, and will one day turn the forever on switch on to eternal life, but that power is guarding us every step of the way between now and then.

Often what we fear most isn't the trial or hardship we're facing now, but what we might face tomorrow: what if a trial is too much for me to endure? What if something devastates my faith and I walk away from Jesus? What if my children endure suffering? I'm not sure how they would bear up, I'm not sure how I would bear up.

But our inheritance is being guarded, and so are we. God will keep us between now and then. It's been said often before but it's true: we may not know what the future holds, but we know Who holds our future. The same personal love that is keeping the inheritance for us is keeping us for the inheritance.

What a glorious hope we have in Christ! What a joyous message that he is not dead, he is risen! And what a strength to know that because of his resurrection God has promised us the power of forever life too – and it doesn't start when we die, it started the moment we placed our faith in Jesus. As we sing, rejoice in the hope of the resurrection. Let us trust and have an eternal hope in God our Father.

BIRTHDAYS – APRIL

2. Christopher Rushton
7. April Brown
8. Namrata Williams
10. Arnold Peters
11. Stephen Dhakrey
12. Vincent Joseph
17. Renuka Boro
18. Dr. Moni Thomas, Samuel Gregory
19. Elizabeth Rushton
20. Arpan Samuel Paul, Gaurav Samuel Bagh, Michelle William
21. Aubrey Ian Russell
23. Col. Vineet Daniel
25. Amrita Thangadurai
28. Alan Ali, Robert Arnold Joseph
30. Sunil Peter

Wish you all a very Happy Birthday with God's Blessings

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

3. Ashish S. Chelvam & Mrs. Neetu Chelvam
12. Ramesh & Sunita Paul, Mr. & Mrs. Vandana Lal
23. Emmanuel & Pearl Park
25. Mr. Stephen & Mrs. Christina Dhakrey
29. Mr. Virender Lal & Mrs. Shayna Lal

We wish the Couple a Happy Long Married Life with God's Choicest Blessings